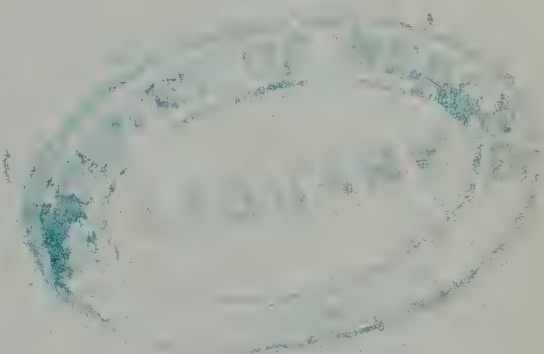


COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT.



REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

County Borough of Southport

For the Year 1943.

*(Including the Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the
School Medical Officer.)*



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL
MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1943

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1943. The report is still abbreviated, but has been slightly enlarged as compared with that of the previous year.

The death rate was higher than in the previous year, which had been the lowest for ten years. The inclement weather of December, together with a marked increase in the incidence of Influenza, accounted for a considerable number of deaths amongst elderly persons. Over the year approximately 36% of the deaths occurred in the age group 75 and over.

Compared with the rest of the country the incidence of infectious diseases during the year was low with the one exception of Whooping Cough, which was more prevalent than in the previous year.

I considered that it was wise, in view of certain erroneous reports which had gained some publicity, to include a brief note on the position with regard to the provisions of the Cancer Act of 1939.

Also there has been included a statement on the Milk Supplies to the town.

The various sections of the department, including the School Medical Service, have been hard pressed throughout the year, but have succeeded in maintaining a high standard of work.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. E. FITZGERALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the comparative figures for Southport, England and Wales, the County Boroughs, and smaller towns. The birth rate for Southport for the year 1943 was 12.3 per 1,000 population, the highest rate since 1925.

The infant mortality rate was 47 per 1,000 live births, a rate which exceeded the exceptionally low figure of 38 in the previous year.

The death rate was 16.6 per 1,000 population. Approximately 36% of the deaths occurred in persons of 75 years and over.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1943.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.	Southport.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Live Births	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	12.3
Still Births	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.41
<i>Deaths :—</i>					
All Causes	12.1	14.2	13.7	15.0	16.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.01
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.43
<i>Notifications :—</i>					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	1.77
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	0.40
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.29
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	1.26
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.01
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	4.32
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	8.71
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—				
Deaths under 1 year of age	49	58	46	58	47
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	3.8
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—				
<i>Maternal Mortality :</i>					
Abortion with Sepsis	0.34	} Not available		}	—
Abortion without Sepsis	0.11				—
Puerperal Infections	0.39				—
Other	1.45				0.92
<i>Notifications :—</i>					
Puerperal Fever	} 11.68	15.11	9.26	} 3.05 15.23	9.23
Puerperal Pyrexia					

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths,

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Although there has been a greatly increased demand the supply has been sufficient, but economy in the use of water is still very necessary. The town is blessed with a constant supply of pure wholesome water. All the houses in the borough have a direct supply from the mains, with the exception of three houses in the Ainsdale district, and in these the supply is obtained from shallow wells.

The water is hard with a temporary hardness of 25.0 parts per 100,000 and a permanent hardness of 8.5 parts. It therefore has a total hardness of 33.5 parts per 100,000.

An analysis made in the middle of 1943 showed the following results :—

ANALYSIS, JUNE, 1943.

	<i>Parts per</i> 100,000		<i>Parts per</i> 100,000
Total solid matter in solution	43.84	Calcium Carbonate	19.4
Oxygen required } in 15 minutes	0.008	Magnesium Carbonate	4.7
to oxidise } in 3 hours	0.015	Magnesium Sulphate	10.1
Ammonia	None	Sodium Sulphate	0.5
Ammonia from organic matter.....	None	Sodium Chloride	4.8
Nitrogen as Nitrates	None	Sodium and Potassium	
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None	Silicates, etc.	4.3
Combined Chlorine	2.90		
		TOTAL SOLIDS	43.8

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION, JUNE, 1943.

No. of colonies on agar at 37°C. for 48 hours = 0 per 1 cc.
 No. of colonies on agar at 22°C. for 48 hours = 0 per 1 cc.
 B. Coli absent in 100 cc. of water examined.
 Streptococcus faecalis absent in 100 cc. of water examined.

The water is drawn from deep wells in the red sandstone and has maintained its exceptional purity over many years.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No cesspools were abolished in 1943. The number of houses in the borough still served by cesspools is 160. During the year a report was submitted to the committee on the condition of the cesspools at 30 houses in Scarisbrick New Road. As a result the cesspools were emptied and the question as to whether a drainage scheme to cover this area could be developed was considered by the appropriate committees. The occupiers of the houses concerned are now emptying the cesspools as required by the byelaws, and in the meantime the development of a drainage scheme is still under discussion.

Sanitary Inspection.—The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year his staff made a total of 25,887 visits of inspection ; of these 1,366 were the result of complaints received from the public. The routine inspection of premises accounted for 3,383 visits. The sanitary defects remedied were : Houses redrained or drains amended, 175 ; building and altering W.C.s, 150 ; and miscellaneous nuisances remedied, 1,332 ; 1,387 nuisances were reported and appropriately dealt with.

HOUSING.

Nothing occurred during the year in connection with housing conditions which deserves special mention. The highest standard of co-operation between owners and the officers of the department in regard to house repairs

was maintained; polite but insistent firmness on the part of officers does much to avoid a situation which otherwise might result in legal proceedings being taken to enforce the demands of the department. Some instances of overcrowding were discovered and these were abated.

SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

Complaints as to the condition of the milk when delivered to the consumer are still numerous. To put the matter mildly the greatest dissatisfaction with the milk supply is evident from reports received by the department. The reason for this state of affairs is that much of the raw milk which is received by the dairyman to-day is of poor keeping quality.

From experience in Southport the position is worse than in the years before the war and the conditions which have arisen as a result of the war and which serve to make matters worse are (a) delay in transport due to short supplies of petrol and lack of drivers in the carrier firms, lack of labour on the producers' farms, the restriction of the right of the dairyman to change his supplier if the milk delivered is of poor keeping quality, and lastly the restriction on the consumers right to change his milkman if the product supplied is unsatisfactory.

Some milk when it reaches the dairy in summer-time is so poor in keeping quality that it sours before the unfortunate dairyman can distribute it to his customers.

From the facts available it can be said that the most unsatisfactory supplies consist of raw milk coming from a distance and a certain quantity of milk from wholesale dairies outside the borough.

The accommodation milk from the Milk Marketing Board's dairy at Bamber Bridge which has been gravely criticized in the past is now a much better product, and latterly has rarely given cause for complaint.

An approximate idea of the types of milk coming into the borough daily is as follows :—

Milk pasteurised by large dairy firms outside the borough but not labelled "Pasteurized"	3,390 gallons.
Milk pasteurized by large dairy firms and sold under the label "Pasteurized"	950 „
Raw milk from outside the borough	3,565 „
Raw milk produced in the borough	915 „
	<hr/>
	8,820 „
	<hr/>

The total bulk of raw milk is 4,480 gallons, but of this 1,590 gallons are pasteurised by licensed dairy firms in the borough and sold under the label. A further 560 gallons are heat treated, but sold as raw milk. 2,330 gallons of raw milk are, therefore, distributed in the town. Approximately, three-quarters of the milk supplied to the town is pasteurized or heat treated.

In so far as it may be said that three-quarters of the milk supply to the town is pasteurized or heat treated this represents an improvement on past years as far as safety is concerned.

A distinction requires to be made between clean milk and safe milk:—

Clean milk produced and distributed under hygienic conditions should be a milk of good keeping quality, but in its raw state cannot be regarded as a safe milk.

Safe milk is milk which has been adequately treated by heat to the extent required for pasteurization so that all harmful organisms have been destroyed.

The milk which is the essential product to be desired is a combination of these two, that is a clean milk, in accordance with the definition above, adequately heat-treated to the extent of pasteurization. Such a milk will be of good keeping quality and safe.

It has been said that the economic aspect of clean milk is not a matter which need concern a health department as long as the milk can be regarded as safe, but this view is erroneous, for the keeping quality and palatability of the milk supply must determine the extent to which this food is consumed. It must be the concern of a health department to ensure, as far as possible, that the milk supply is not only safe but will be in a suitable condition to be consumed especially by the sections of the public at present given priority in supply.

To provide a clean and safe milk supply important changes in the present system will be required ; most of these are apparently impossible in war-time.

Milk producers should stick to the business of production and bring their methods up to an enlightened standard in view of present-day knowledge. Their time should be devoted entirely to production, and not to the retail side of the business, which should be left to the dairy trade.

The dairy trade can be divided into two classes, the wholesale dairy which receives raw milk for pasteurization, and the retail dairies which to-day sell either pasteurised or heat-treated milk and raw milk.

The standard of the dairy trade requires to be raised.

One of the grave defects of the 1926 Milk and Dairies Order was the lack of definition of the standards required. Model byelaws based upon this order, giving detailed standards which would be enforced after the expiration of a suitable time for transition, would have brought about an improvement in the supplies which would have been of great value during this war.

The sooner such byelaws are provided the sooner will local authorities be able to do the work which was indicated in the 1926 Order.

The right of the dairyman to refuse a milk supply of poor keeping quality served in the past as a warning to a producer that his methods were unsatisfactory. This right has vanished, but should be returned to the dairyman as soon as possible.

The Government's scheme to schedule areas in which all milk supplies except T.T. milk or accredited milk must be adequately heat treated before it reaches the consumer is so far satisfactory in providing for the safety of the heated milk, but neither T.T. milk nor accredited milk can be regarded as safe in the raw state. Accredited milk is a clean, raw milk and all milk should be produced to this standard, but it is not a safe milk, and should be heat treated.

Lastly, the block system of distribution should be abandoned as soon as this is possible. In the same way that the return of poor milk from the retailer to the producer serves as a check on the latter, so is there a check on the dairyman if a dissatisfied customer can change his dairy. This right to change has been destroyed by the block system, and there are many dissatisfied customers who to-day can obtain no redress.

Other Foodstuffs.—196 samples of foodstuffs (including tinned milk) were taken, and the following were found to be defective :—

Tinned Milk.....	Unfit for consumption	Stocks surrendered and disposed of by Ministry of Food Salvage Department.
Mulligatawny Soup	Deficient in protein	Dealt with by the Food Enforcement Officer.
Tinned Milk.....	Unfit for consumption	This matter was referred to the Ministry of Food and the controlling agents of the packers. A complete search of all stocks was made and all stocks of the pack numbers concerned were withdrawn from sale and disposed of otherwise by the Ministry of Food.
Butter Mixture	Unfit for consumption	Affected stocks surrendered and disposed of by Ministry of Food Salvage Department.
“Olive Oil”	Not of the nature and substance, etc.	Vendor prosecuted and fined.
Pancake Mixture	Unfit for consumption	Stocks surrendered and disposed of by Ministry of Food Salvage Department.
(two samples)		
Margarine	Unfit for consumption	Stocks surrendered and disposed of by Ministry of Food Salvage Department.
Strawberry Jam	Deficient in Fruit	Further samples proved to be genuine and no action was taken.
Egg Substitute Powder	4% Deficient in Carbon Dioxide	Stocks surrendered for Salvage.
Salad Dressing	Unfit for consumption	Stocks surrendered for Salvage.

The visits of Inspection in connection with the supervision of food are as follows :—Public slaughter-houses, 669 ; private slaughter-houses, nil ; butchers' shops, 2,697 ; fish and poultry shops, 1,237 ; other shops, 3,019 ; restaurants, etc., 127 ; ice cream workshops, nil ; ice cream stalls, nil ; potted meat and fish works, 480 ; piggeries, 122 ; milk farms, 73 ; private premises where pigs are killed, 127 ; total, 8,551.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The table to be found on page 10 gives details of the admissions to and discharges from the hospitals controlled by the department.

New Hall Isolation Hospital.—The total number of beds in New Hall Isolation Hospital is 138, 36 of these are in the Sanatorium. The 102 beds on the fever side include 32 beds provided by the Ministry of Health. The accommodation available for isolation of infectious disease on the fever side has proved to be adequate, for no exceptional outbreak of any infectious disease occurred during the year. The number of beds in the sanatorium have been kept full, and at times it was difficult to find accommodation for those in need of treatment. The accommodation for nursing and domestic staffs also has proved insufficient and represents a difficult problem.

Maternity Hospitals.—The normal peacetime accommodation is that provided at the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital (30 beds) and in pre-

war days this proved to be sufficient. As a war-time measure, additional provision had been made by the Ministry of Health at "St. Katharine's Home" (15 beds) and the "Red House" (12 beds). This extra accommodation was ostensibly for mothers evacuated officially or unofficially to the town. For considerable periods during the year the actual number of Southport mothers in the lying-in hospitals exceeded 30 and if the same trend towards confinement in hospital continues after the war it may well be that the accommodation at the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital will prove to be insufficient.

Fleetwood Road Hospital.—The need for additional accommodation for the aged and chronic sick became so acute that the Committee decided to purchase the Victoria Home, 20, Park Road, in October, 1943. This home has accommodation for 25 and serves as an annexe to Fleetwood Road Hospital (62 beds). Since early in 1944 patients have been admitted to the Victoria Home but the relief thus obtained is still insufficient to meet the demand for beds for the aged and chronic sick.

The procedure for admitting this class of patient to Hospital remains unchanged; they are admitted to the Ormskirk County Hospital in the first instance, and transferred to the Fleetwood Road Hospital as beds become vacant. Direct admission to Fleetwood Road is reserved for those patients who are in such a condition of health as to make the longer journey to Ormskirk undesirable.

The number of beds at the Ormskirk County Hospital waiting for transfer continues to be high, and the rate of transference very slow. This being so it is impossible to deal satisfactorily with the patient who, while in dire need of hospital accommodation, refuses to go to Ormskirk, preferring to wait hopefully but often vainly for direct admission to the Fleetwood Road Hospital. The enlargement of this hospital to approximately twice the present accommodation is a post-war task of some urgency.

Skin Hospitals.—The normal peace-time provision for children suffering from skin diseases is that contained at the Skin Hospital, Pilkington Road, where there are 12 cots. During the war this has proved insufficient and additional accommodation has had to be made available. From the 11th of September, 1939, to the 31st of May, 1940, Rosefield Hall with 30 beds, was used and during that period, 240 children were treated there, of whom 197 were evacuees and 43 were Southport children. On the 31st May, 1940, Rosefield Hall was closed, and the patients transferred to the New Hall (Wigan Camp) Annexe, where skin cases were treated until the 4th of December, 1940, during which time 67 children were treated, of whom 63 were evacuees. The need for additional accommodation became acute again, and on the 7th of March, 1941, 30 beds were set up at the Pochin Home, Roe Lane, and up to the 26th October, 1943, when it was closed, 782 children were treated, 612 evacuees and 170 Southport children. All the children referred to were inmates for periods varying from a few days in some cases, to several months in others.

For the last two months of the year, therefore, the accommodation for children suffering from diseases of the skin reverted to the twelve cots at the Skin Department. The treatment of skin disease in adults has been provided by the Southport Infirmary where a clinic is held. An adult requiring in-patient treatment in the ordinary course would be admitted to the Infirmary, but owing to the need for the accommodation of more acute cases there has been from time to time a difficulty in obtaining beds for adults.

There has been an increase in the incidence of skin disease both amongst adults and children since the war began and a revision of the existing facilities, is required so that in-patient treatment of such cases may be placed on a surer basis.

CORPORATION HOSPITALS.

ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, ETC., 1943.

Name of Hospital.	Type of Patient.	No. in Hospital, 31/12/42.	Admitted.	Dis-charged.	Died.	In Hospital 31/12/43.
New Hall	Diphtheria	3	59	55	3	4
	Scarlet Fever	3	115	108	—	10
	C.S. Fever	—	1	1	—	—
	Measles	1	49	49	1	—
	Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	1
	Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1	—	—
	Chickenpox	2	24	26	—	—
	Obs. & O.D.	6	165	158	5	8
		16	414	398	9	23
	Tuberculosis	30	42	39	10	23
Fleetwood Road Hospital	Aged and Chronic Sick	69	46	11	34	70
V.D. & Skin Hospital	V.D. or Skin Out-patient	— 255	37 275	35 219	2 *55	— 256
Pochin Home (1)	Skin	16	212	228	—	—
Ormskirk C. Hospital (2)	Hospital Wards	65	235	233	—	67
	Pavilion	45	79	85	—	39
Christiana Hartley	Maternity Hospital	18	481	494	3	2
St. Katherine's	Do.	7	234	231	—	10
Red House	Do.	4	179	174	—	9

* Transfers.

(1) Pochin Home closed 26th October, 1943.

(2) Ormskirk County Hospital is administered by the Lancashire County Council,

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Ante- and Post-natal Clinics.—There are four ante-natal clinics. Three of these are held at the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital and one at 44, Hoghton Street. One thousand and seventy-seven mothers attended the ante-natal clinics. This number represents 81 per cent. of the total number of women confined during the year.

One post-natal clinic is held at 44, Hoghton Street at which all mothers are invited to attend during the four weeks following the lying-in period. Two hundred and thirty-six mothers attended during the year. This number represents a comparatively small percentage of those who take advantage of the other Corporation maternity services, and further education of the mothers in this matter is required.

One ante-natal hostel has remained open during the year and admitted seventy-two cases.

Domiciliary Midwifery.—Twenty-five midwives notified their intention to practise in the area, apart from those employed in the lying-in hospitals.

Four of the midwives were engaged in the Municipal Midwifery Service. They attended 131 cases as midwives, and 26 as maternity nurses. They all hold certificates enabling them to administer Gas/Air Analgesia, and they play an increasing part in the ante-natal work of their cases. During the year they paid 2,340 ante-natal and 2,993 nursing visits.

Thirteen midwives in private practice attended 305 cases. Doctors attended 224 cases.

Maternity Hospital Provision.—Three institutions provided Corporation maternity beds, viz., Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital, 30 beds; St. Katharine's Emergency Maternity Hospital, 15 beds; and Red House Emergency Maternity Hospital, 12 beds. The three hospitals are run in conjunction, and all bookings are made and ante-natal treatment carried out at the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital.

Eleven Nursing Homes in the town are registered for the admission of maternity cases; 197 births occurred in them.

There has been no shortage of institutional provision for maternity cases, and the service has been able to include cases coming officially for confinement from Waterloo and Crosby.

Notification of Births.—Of the 1,330 births which took place in Southport, the following table shows (a) that 269, or 20 per cent., of them were born to mothers not ordinarily resident in the Borough; (b) that 867, or 65 per cent., were born in maternity hospitals controlled by the Corporation; and (c) by including the Municipal Midwifery Service that 1,024, or 77 per cent., took place in services provided and controlled by the Corporation.

	Live-births.	Still-births.	Total.	Southport.	Others.
Christiana Hartley Maternity Hosp.....	452	16	468	368	100
St. Katharine's E.M. Hospital.....	227	3	230	158	72
Red House E.M. Hospital	163	6	169	107	62
Municipal Midwives	150	7	157	149	8
Domiciliary Private Midwives	96	3	99	94	5
Nursing Homes	192	5	197	182	15
Skin Hospital	7	—	7	1	6
Other	1	2	3	2	1
	1,288	42	1,330	1,061	269

The percentage of stillbirths was 3.2 per cent., compared with 4.7 per cent., in the year before the war.

Welfare Centres.—There are five in the town, and the table below shows the attendances at each of these during the year 1943, with the exception of the attendances of children evacuated from other areas, the figures for which are combined and shown separately. Dried milk under the National Milk Scheme and cod liver oil and fruit juices under the Vitamin Scheme of the Ministry of Food are issued at these Centres. Clerical and other help are provided by the members of the Voluntary Child Welfare Committee, which continues to play an important part in the infant welfare work in the town.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES AT THE SOUTHPORT WELFARE CENTRES
FOR THE YEAR 1943.**

NAME OF CENTRE.	Infants.		Children over 1 and under 5.	
	1st Visits.	Re-Visits.	1st Visits.	Re-Visits.
Hampton Road	170	3,037	2	1,515
High Park	146	2,840	26	1,294
Liverpool Road	135	3,077	10	1,753
Crossens	87	1,777	4	1,258
Hoghton Street	129	2,199	19	1,178
Totals	667	12,930	61	6,998
Evacuees	37	584	16	460
GRAND TOTALS	704	13,514	77	7,458

Health Visitors.—Two additional Health Visitors, making a total of 12, were included in the staff during 1943 because of the extra work due to the war. Their duties, like the permanent members of the staff, include those of School Nurse. During 1943, 317 visits were paid to expectant mothers, of which 91 were first visits. In the case of children under one year the total visits came to 7,300, of which 1,019 were first visits. The total number of visits between the ages of one and five was 9,134, 115 additional visits were paid to boarded-out children, and 251 visits to nurse children.

Home Help.—A full-time Help was employed until September, but after that time it was found impossible to procure one.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.—Thirty-four notifications were received during the year. This figure compares favourably with those of the previous two years (1942, 105; and 1941, 234). All the notified cases were admitted to New Hall Isolation Hospital. The type of disease varied, but in some cases was exceedingly severe. Three deaths occurred, two were adult female patients and the third a little girl of two years. In each of these the disease had become well established before admission.

Immunisation.—Two thousand, nine hundred and ninety-six children were immunised during the twelve months. On the 31st December, 1943, 64·1 % of the children under 5 years of age had been immunised and 74·1 % of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

These percentages are satisfactory in the main, and are a credit to all concerned in the scheme. The work requires constant attention, and further efforts are being made to increase the numbers of children protected in this way.

As has been stated in earlier reports the efficiency of the scheme depends upon the staff of the department, the general practitioners of the town and the help given by the head teachers of the schools.

Scarlet Fever.—150 notifications were received, and of this number 115 were admitted to the Isolation hospital. The type of disease continued to be mild.

Enteric Group.—No case of typhoid fever was notified during the year, but one case of suspected paratyphoid fever was notified and treated at home. The source of infection was not discovered.

Undulant Fever.—One case was notified, a soldier under treatment at the Emergency hospital.

Chicken-pox.—There was an increase in the incidence of this disease compared with the previous year, and 416 notifications were received.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Two cases of this disease were notified. Both were treated as in-patients at the Skin and V.D. department. The result in each case was satisfactory and the sight was not affected.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—There were 10 notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia; one patient was admitted to the Isolation hospital for treatment which was successful; the remainder were treated at home.

Pemphigus Neonatorum.—On 29th September a case of pemphigus occurred in the Christiana Hartley Maternity Hospital, and between that date and the end of the year sixteen infants and one mother contracted the disease. With the exception of the first case, in which there was a fatal result, the disease was mild, and rapidly yielded to appropriate treatment. Despite the most intensive search the source of the infection was never clearly defined. The outbreak caused much disturbance in the hospital, and the hospital was closed for admissions for a fortnight in October. The hospital was cleaned and decorated throughout, and half the accommodation was available for admissions on 25th October. On 16th November, after an interval of 39 days a further case occurred, and two more on 8th December. Between the latter date and the end of the year six more cases occurred including one mother.

The hospital was visited by a medical officer of the Ministry of Health, at my request, and as a result the hospital was again closed for a fortnight and re-opened on 17th January.

Certain recommendations were made in a report received from the Ministry and the various requirements were carried out. No further cases have so far occurred.

Dysentery.—There were five notifications of this disease. One case was that of a man in the Forces who arrived home on leave from the West Coast of

Africa. He was admitted to the Isolation hospital suffering from dysentery of the Flexner type. A second case was a boy of two years who was admitted to the Isolation hospital where an organism of the sonne type was isolated. The results of treatment in both cases were satisfactory. The remaining three patients were nursed at home.

Erysipelas.—Twenty-five cases were notified, and six were admitted to the Isolation hospital. Five of these were successfully treated and one died.

Measles and German Measles.—759 cases of Measles and 1,579 German Measles were notified. Of these 45 of the former and three of the latter were admitted to the Isolation hospital either because of the severity of the disease or difficulties in isolating and nursing the patient at home. One child was admitted suffering from encephalitis following measles and died in the hospital.

Whooping Cough.—There was a greater incidence of this disease than in the previous year, and 367 cases were notified. Twenty-three cases were admitted to the Isolation hospital owing to the severity of the disease, and one death occurred due to the development of broncho-pneumonia in the case of an infant aged 7 months.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.—One case was notified, a child under treatment at the Southport Infirmary. The result of treatment was satisfactory.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1943.

DISEASE.	Southport.	Others.	Total.	Deaths in Notified Cases.
Diphtheria	28	6	34	3
Scarlet Fever	133	17	150	—
Pneumonia	105	4	109	2
Measles	669	80	749	1
German Measles	151	6	157	—
Chicken Pox	382	34	416	—
Whooping Cough	349	18	367	—
C.S. Meningitis	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	—	10	—
Undulant Fever	1	—	1	—
Paratyphoid	1	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	2	—
Erysipelas	25	—	25	1
Malaria	15	—	15	—
Dysentery	5	—	5	—
	1,877	165	2,042	—

CANCER ACT, 1939.

This Act places a responsibility upon County and County Borough Councils to ensure that the facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in their areas are adequate. When the Act was passed a date was fixed (29th March, 1940) by which a local authority's scheme should have been presented to the Ministry for approval, but owing to the outbreak of war this date has been postponed year by year, and is now 31st March, 1945. In some areas where little or no provision has been made temporary schemes have been approved. In Southport the Southport Infirmary has over many years developed an organization for this work in close association with the Christie

Hospital and Holt Radium Institute in Manchester. In the year under review there was a total of 108 in-patients suffering from cancer in the Southport Infirmary ; 99 cases of cancer received treatment by operation and 97 new cases attended the out-patient Radium Clinic. As a result of the town's aliveness to the need for an efficient service large sums of money have been subscribed in past years, and as a result of this the Southport Infirmary have a satisfactory arrangement as regards the transfer of patients to the Christie Hospital for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment. There has been no immediate need, therefore, for the preparation of an interim scheme in the borough. This is further emphasized by the fact that discussion of the provisions of the Act has been postponed for some months by the Infirmary Board. In the meantime a general outline of a scheme is in course of preparation, and this scheme will be one which will be based upon a regional scheme covering a wide area. It is felt that only in this way can all the resources of diagnosis and treatment be made available to all who require them.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year notifications totalled 102, the same total as for 1942. Of these 53 were suffering from pulmonary disease, as compared with 74 in 1942, and 49 suffering from non-pulmonary disease, as compared with 28. There were 7 children under 15 with pulmonary disease and 27 affected in other sites.

The following is the analysis of the 49 non-pulmonary cases :—Peripheral glands, 27 ; Abdominal, 12 (including 2 posthumous) ; Bones and joints, 3 ; and other forms, 7.

Deaths during the year totalled 58, and of these 50 were due to pulmonary disease.

At the end of the year there were 338 cases on the Dispensary Register, as compared with 310 in 1942, and 1,346 visits were made to the Dispensary as compared with 1,166. Attendances at the Contact Clinic totalled 170, and 4 persons were found on examination to be suffering from tuberculosis.

Patients attending for treatment of tuberculosis at the Sunlight Clinics totalled 50.

New Hall Sanatorium.—At the beginning of the year there were 30 patients in the Sanatorium and 42 new cases were admitted during the year, 10 patients died and 39 were discharged.

Artificial pneumothorax treatment was given to 33 patients during the year, the refills totalling 1,039. Five patients received operative treatment to adhesions at Liverpool to improve the lung collapse. Of the 33 patients, 11 were in-patients, and of the out-patients 6 out of 8 males were working full time and 12 out of 14 females were working or doing full household duties.

X-ray films taken during the year totalled 672, and X-ray screen examinations over 2,500. The X-ray plant is being required to do more work and has required occasional repairs necessitated by age. Three patients had phrenic evulsion performed by the Visiting Surgeon and gold injections were given to 17 patients.

Forty-seven persons were examined at the request of the Recruiting Medical Boards and of these two were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Accommodation was considerably taxed during the year, particularly for female patients and a waiting list was in existence for some months. There are three patients awaiting thoracoplasty or other major operations for pulmonary tuberculosis, and it appears that there will be considerable delay before they can be admitted to Sanatoria with suitable facilities. There has been but little delay in obtaining vacancies in other Sanatoria for patients suffering from non-pulmonary disease.

The Voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued to increase its valuable activities and the extent of its aid to many patients.

The Ministry of Health's scheme of financial allowances was commenced in Southport on the 1st of June, 1943. The Health Committee appointed a sub-committee to administer the scheme and "to work in conjunction with the Southport Voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee", a fitting acknowledgment of the good work done by members of that Committee.

Some disappointment and confusion arose because of the limitations of the scheme, and, so that the discrimination between classes of patient should not be continued, the Care Committee made up income of the "non-eligible", i.e., chronic or non-pulmonary case, to what it would have been if the patient had been entitled to an allowance under the Ministry's scheme.

This arrangement continued until the 1st of April, 1944, when the Health Committee, taking advantage of the power contained in Section 173 of the Public Health Act, 1936, enlarged the scheme so as to provide for all classes of persons suffering from tuberculosis. The cost in respect to the chronic case and the person suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis is, of course, borne by the Corporation.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the end of 1943, 256 persons were under treatment, as compared with 255 twelve months before. The new cases are classified as follows :—Syphilis, 22 males, 31 females ; gonorrhoea, 46 males, 35 females ; non-venereal, 53 males, 68 females ; total 255 persons.

The attendance at the Out-patient Department totalled 8,937, as against 9,536 in the previous year. Twenty-nine patients were admitted for in-patient treatment. Seven maternity cases were dealt with ; a full-term, healthy infant was born in each case.

BLIND WELFARE.

At the beginning of 1943 there were 166 blind persons on the Register. During the year 7 names were added, 6 new cases and one transfer from another area. Fifteen blind persons died and seven were transferred to other areas. The total of 151 on the Register at the end of the year may be classified as follows : (a) 56 males and 95 females, (b) 2 under 16 years of age ; 1 in the group 16 to 21 years ; 9 in the group 21 to 40 years ; 10 between 40 and 50 years ; 50 between 50 and 65 years ; 25 between 65 and 70 years ; 54, 70 years and over.

The Home Teacher paid 1,326 visits to blind persons in their homes and 92 classes for instruction were held. Forty-five social gatherings were arranged.

At the end of the year, 80 of the blind persons on the Register were receiving weekly grants, and during the year the total grants amounted to £4,742. 7s. 8d. Fourteen blind persons are resident in approved Institutions for the Blind.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

For practical purposes it may be said that the pre-war school medical services were carried out during 1943 and, that, where special war conditions demanded it, the work was extended. As an example of this, every child in an elementary school was examined at least once by a health visitor during the year and his nutritional condition considered. This comprehensive survey was not carried out regularly before the war, and has proved of great value.

School Medical Inspection.—All elementary schools were visited for medical inspection during the year, as well as the Day Technical School.

Complete Routine Inspection was carried out in the case of all “entrants”, i.e., all children not previously examined in a Southport School, and all those over 12 years of age in the Elementary Schools. In practice this meant the examination of all pupils of 12, 13 and 14 years, as it was the first occasion in which time had been found to include the 12-year group, since the war began. The inclusion of the leaver group raised the number fully examined from 1,437 in 1942 to 2,693 in 1943. The number included 93 evacuated children.

Immediately before the doctor’s visit, every other child was examined by the Health Visitor and where necessary referred to the Medical Officer. This survey included testing of vision of all children of 8 years of age and of all those already wearing glasses. 697 Southport and 26 evacuated children were referred for a variety of reasons and included all those who might be under-nourished, under-clad or otherwise in need of help.

Nutrition.—In 1942 the nutritional picture was slightly less favourable than it had been in the previous four years during which it had remained fairly constant. This falling off may have been fortuitous, and the percentage of well-nourished children rose again in 1943 to the pre-war figure. It has to be remembered, however, that the composition of the age groups represented, differed somewhat in the last two years. Nevertheless, the general impression gained by the medical staff was, that the nutritional state of the school children was at least as good as it was before the war.

	Children examined during the year.	PERCENTAGE.			
		Excellent.	Normal.	Slightly Sub-normal.	Bad.
1943	2,693	8.0	85.4	6.3	0.07
1942	1,437	4.5	81.2	14.4	—
1941	1,983	7.8	84.5	7.6	0.15
1940	2,749	7.6	83.4	8.7	0.29
1939	1,812	10.3	82.9	6.7	0.11
1938	2,221	8.1	83.6	8.1	0.18

Along with actual nutrition there are other findings which give fair indication of the general care and surroundings of the child. For example :—

Parents present at inspection.—Before the war the number of parents who were sufficiently interested and free to attend at the inspection was rising continuously and had reached 65% for all ages. In 1943, although the parents of 70% of the entrants group were present, for all ages the per cent. was only 37. This is, of course, not surprising, as so many mothers are at work, but it does limit the usefulness of the examination, and it is to be hoped that the custom of the parent attending at the older ages will be resumed when possible.

Refusal of examination.—At one time some parents, or their children through them, refused inspection on very flimsy grounds. In 1938, thirty-five children were thus denied the benefit of being examined. In 1943, there were only two cases of this kind.

Clothing and footgear are also indications of child care. In spite of difficulties, unsatisfactory clothing was very rare—less than before the war, but footwear has been known to be difficult and the percentage of unsatisfactory cases was double what it was in 1938. Watertight shoes are of the highest benefit to children, and the repair of their shoes should be considered a work of national importance. Properly made clogs are useful in this respect.

Cleanliness.—The groups of children inspected were, on the whole, cleanly, so far as their bodies and clothing were concerned, and in certain schools where good use is being made of shower-baths the results, and the attitude of the children, were striking. Over all, only 0·3% were unsatisfactory and this is slightly better than the pre-war figure.

In accordance with Circular 2831 renewed efforts have been made to rid the school and pre-school community of head-lice. That these efforts have been partially successful is shown by the figures at routine medical inspection, but the position is still not what it was in 1938. Six children were actually found at medical inspection with vermin in the hair, compared with none before the war.

**PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL
INSPECTION WITH NITS IN THE HAIR.**

1938	1942	1943
6·0	11·0	8·0

Health visitors, midwives and others visiting the homes of young children, have been asked to pay special attention to the condition of the hair and to make a point of seeing that the mothers understand the reasons for and best methods of preventing, nits in the hair.

No child of any age is now allowed to enter a new school or department without first having the hair completely free from nits or vermin. To ensure this, the nurse attends at school on the first day or days of the term and excludes all entrants found to be not clean. At other times of the year a child entering school must first attend at the Health Centre to be passed. There can be no doubt that this regulation has helped to keep the schools, and particularly the nursery classes, up to a better standard. The greatest difficulty is often to persuade the parent to get the child cleansed and admitted to school in a reasonable time and considerable co-operation with the School Attendance department is required in the matter.

During the year, Health Visitors paid an average of 5.9 visits of inspection per school. They made 5,901 first inspections and 17,355 re-inspections of children known to require careful supervision.

No official cleansing station is owned by the Local Authority, but at the Health Centre all required advice is given, steel combs are lent or sold and, where the parents are not available, heads are attended to by the staff.

A certain number of cases have been treated with lethane oil. It has been found most useful for application in the case of persistent offenders; its application is also of benefit in nurseries where children may sleep in homes which suffer from the fact that the mother is at work for long hours.

SUMMARY OF CLEANLINESS EXAMINATIONS, DECEMBER, 1943.

	Boys.		Girls.		TOTAL.	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nits	37	1.3	267	9.0	304	5.2
Verminous	3	0.1	6	0.2	9	0.2
Clean	2,876	98.7	2,712	90.9	5,588	94.7

Vaccination.—No great change in the vaccinal condition of the school population has been evident over the last few years. 72.1% of those inspected had not been vaccinated.

Number found to Require Treatment.—The percentage requiring treatment did not differ widely from the figures of previous years.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

GROUP.	SOUTHPORT, 1943.
Entrants	16.0
Second Age Group.....	24.6
Third Age Group	16.1
TOTAL	17.0

Arrangements for Treatment.—These have been detailed in previous reports and have not been altered. A tremendous amount of work passes through the hands of the medical, dental and nursing staffs at the Health Centre. The premises have now become inadequate for the variety and extent of treatment carried out. The following is a summary of attendances during the year :—

	SOUTHPORT. 1943.	EVACUEES. 1943.
Nurses' Treatment Clinic	12,397	3,190
Minor Ailment Clinic	2,964	877
Skin Clinic	1,636	469
Tonsils and Adenoids Clinic	246	29
Ophthalmic Clinic.....	558	154
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	3,792	468
Aural Clinic	1,039	214
Nasal Clinic	581	65
Dental Clinic	5,994	370
Immunisation Clinic.....	2,077	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The campaign to get the child population fully immunised has been carried on in 1943. 2,077 children completed courses of injections directly under the Health Department, 724 at the Clinics, 1,258 in Schools and 95 in Welfare Centres. Parents are now largely aware of the simplicity and value of diphtheria immunisation, but if the campaign is to be effective, active steps have constantly to be taken to round up the careless and the dilatory.

Skin Clinic.—This clinic is still more necessary than it was before the war, largely on account of the number of cases of scabies, still either in the community or constantly being introduced into the area.

	FIRST EXAMINATIONS, 1943.		RE-EXAMINATIONS, 1943.	
	Southport.	Evacuees.	Southport.	Evacuees.
Ringworm of the Scalp	4	2	3	3
Ringworm of the Body	3	5	6	2
Scabies	234	63	618	201
Other Conditions	441	111	448	152

349 Southport children and 114 evacuees, as well as 111 adults were diagnosed as suffering from scabies during the year. 212 children were admitted to the Sick Bay in Roe Lane with various types of skin disease. This institution had proved very useful in treating those who could not be dealt with adequately at home, but in October it was decided that owing to lack of staff, it could no longer be run satisfactorily and was therefore closed.

Infectious Diseases.—There was no major outbreak of infectious disease in the schools. 13 cases only of diphtheria were notified among school children, and there were no deaths. Immunisation may be showing some effect on the numbers but it has to be remembered that in 1934 and 1936 similar immunity was enjoyed.

Tuberculosis.—Twenty-two notifications of tuberculosis in children of school age were received. Of these three were localised in the lungs and the others in bones and joints or glands. The numbers are considerably higher than before the war, and are part of the general increase in tuberculosis which has to be fought.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING.

MEALS AND MILK.

No. of Children receiving Free Meals and/or Milk on one particular day in October, 1943.

No. of Children receiving—

Dinners (free)	261
„ (paid)	1,105
Sandwich (free)	63
„ (paid)	576
Milk (one-third pint) (free)	78
„ „ (paid)	2,615
„ (two-thirds pint) (free)	279
„ „ (paid)	1,952

CHILDREN IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

Six children were admitted to Special Schools during the year as follows :—

Bradstock Lockett Hospital Home	3
Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby	1
Maghull Homes for Epileptics	1
Clatterbridge General Hospital	1

The total number of children in Special Schools during the year was eighteen.

